

to the region pH while varying from the minimum value to the maximum value stepwisely and forms the point of inflection I at the end close to the region pV. The winding pitch in the region pA is the same as that of the end adjacent to the region pH.

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3-26-04 The example of the winding pitch shown in FIG. 10(f) is similar to that shown in FIG. 10(e) as a whole but differs in that the winding pitch varies continuously.

The luminance distribution shown in FIG. 10(g) is obtained by the winding pitch example shown in FIG. 10(b). In this figure, a x-axis shows a position X(mm) in the axial direction of the lamp and a y-axis shows a relative luminance (%). From this diagram, it is seen that the luminance distribution is substantially uniform in the entire axial direction of the glass tube 11 ranging from the region pH facing the constricted positive column PCs to the region pV facing the diffused positive column PCd.

That is, in the fluorescent lamp, it was recognized that the constricted positive column is generated near the inner electrode 15 when the lamp is turned on as shown in FIG. 10(a) and that the luminance of the lamp at this portion drops lower than the portion wherein the diffused positive column is generated. However, according to the present invention, a substantially uniform luminance distribution with a high luminance was obtained by the tube power increasing means provided as described above.